

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1696

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

S E C R E T EC BRUSSELS 1629

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, CG, ZA, EEC

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE

REF: A) STATE 37690, B) EC BRUSSELS 702

1. DURING LENGTHY AND WIDE-RANGING INITIAL CALL ON EC VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS SOAMES, I RAISED ISSUE OF AID TO ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA, MAKING POINTS IN REDTEL. I ALSO NOTED THAT OUR EMBASSIES IN EC CAPITALS WOULD BE MAKING SIMILAR REPRESENTATIONS AND THAT I HOPED FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD USE OPPORTUNITY OF THEIR MEETING NEXT WEEK IN LUXEMBOURG TO DISCUSS WHAT THE NINE AND COMMUNITY COULD DO IN THE SHORT TERM TO SHOW THAT WEST IS PREPARED TO HELP ITS FRIENDS.

2. SOAMES' INITIAL COMMENT WAS THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR ALL CONCERNED IF EUROPE HAD MOUNTED SUCH AN EFFORT TWO MONTHS AGO, AND THAT LITTLE GOOD COULD COME OF SUCH A PROGRAM NOW. HOWEVER, HE THEN WENT ON TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IF THESE COUNTRIES COULD LEGITIMATELY TURN TO ANYONE, IT SHOULD CERTAINLY BE TO THE EC AND ITS MEMBERS. HE ALLUDED TO SIMILAR CASE WHICH EC HAD FACED WITH PORTUGAL AND WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE "ARE ALSO IN OUR PARISH, AND WE DIDN'T SET UP THE LOME CONVENTION RELATIONSHIP JUST TO SEE ALL OF BLOODY AFRICA GO COMMUNIST."

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3. THIS SAID, HE ADMITTED THAT HE HAD NOT FOCUSED ON WHAT SPECIFICALLY THE COMMUNITY AS SUCH MIGHT DO. HOWEVER, HE AGREED THAT THE SUBJECT OF ANGOLA AND ITS NEIGHBORS WOULD CERTAINLY BE DISCUSSED IN LUXEMBOURG AND HE INSTRUCTED HIS STAFF ASSISTANT TO HAVE A PAPER PREPARED FOR HIS USE AND A BRIEFING FROM THE COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

4. MISSION HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ON CURRENT EDF INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA (REF B) WHICH, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, REMAIN UNCHANGED. NOT UNLIKE PORTUGAL, ANY EFFORT TO MOBILIZE AN ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY PROGRAM FOR THESE COUNTRIES WILL INEVITABLY BE A CUMBERSOME, TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS, EVEN IF THE WILL TO ACT IS MOBILIZED FAIRLY QUICKLY AND SHARED WIDELY AMONG THE MEMBER STATES.

5. THERE IS AN IRONIC ELEMENT OF PERSONAL CONTINUITY IN THE FACT THAT MY FIRST OFFICIAL ACT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS HERE DEALS WITH ZAIRE. MY LAST CHAT WITH A "FOREIGN MINISTER" WAS WHEN BULA SERVED MY MY WALKING PAPERS FROM KINSHASA, AND MY LAST PREVIOUS MEETING (MAY 1975) IN BRUSSELS WITH AN EC COMMISSIONER WAS WHEN AMBASSADOR GREENWALD AND I APPROACHED CHEYSSON ABOUT A POSSIBLY EXTRA EC EFFORT FOR ZAIRE. GIVEN OUR INTERESTS IN AFRICA, I THINK NOW AS THEN THAT WESTERN HELP IS DESPERATELY NEEDED, AND I HOPE, THOUGH AM NOT OPTIMISTIC, THAT THE EC WILL RESPOND IN TIME. HINTON

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